



## **Governor O'Malley, Presiding Officers Sign Law Adding Green Construction Codes to Maryland's High Performance Building Program**

(Annapolis, MD) -- Governor Martin O'Malley, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. and Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch, today signed legislation allowing the use of green construction codes as an option for meeting the requirements of the State's High Performance Green Building Program. Currently, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system is the only path to compliance. House Bill 207 was sponsored by the Maryland Department of General Services, which as the host department for the Maryland Green Building Council, helps guide the State's High Performance Green Building Program. The law goes into effect October 1, 2014.

"This gives the State another tool for constructing high-performing buildings with productive and healthy work spaces for the people who use them -- and that have minimal impact on the environment," said DGS Secretary Alvin C. Collins. "It will also simplify the design and construction of green public schools and community colleges."

The existing High Performance Building law was implemented in 2008 and requires all new or significantly renovated, fully-funded or owned State buildings over 7,500 square feet to achieve at least a Silver rating as determined by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system. The requirements also apply to partially State funded public schools and community colleges.

In 2012, Maryland adopted the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) as an optional requirement for local jurisdictions to apply to commercial buildings and multi-family residential buildings. Over the past year, the Maryland Green Building Council has been developing its own version of the IgCC with the intent of providing an alternate compliance path for its High Performance Building Program. The IgCC is a prescriptive code which provides specific measures to reduce the environmental impact of construction projects.

According to the Maryland Green Building Council, 42 State building projects have been required to comply with the State's High Performance Building Program; of which 11 have been completed, 8 are under construction and 23 are in the planning and design phase. 78 schools are also on track to comply with the program. An additional 42 buildings, not required to comply with the program, have also been influenced to meet the State's green building standards.